K
112. f. 44
34
34

Truth in Disguise:

OR, THE

TALE

OF THE

Lady and her Huntsman.

I.

IN Ancient Times (as Stories tell)
A LADY liv'd, whose Fame
Did all her Neighbours far excell
Howe're Things went, if ill or well,
Yet she was still the same.

II.

Her Flocks were large, her tender Ewes
Were fruitful, (as 'tis said):
But tho' the Shepherd did incloſe
The Lambs at Night, their Mortal Foes,
The *Wolves* broke in, and fed.

III.

The Shepherd then, without delay,
Came homewards jogging on,
And to his Lady thus did say,
The Flocks decreaſe, by Beaſts of Prey,
O! ſend for Huntſman JOHN.

IV.

To this the Lady did conſent,
And *John* was call'd with ſpeed
The Wolves Deſigns, she said, *prevent,*
I leave it to your Management,
I pray now, JOHN, *take heed.*

V.

JOHN to his Truſt was always true,
His Duty ne'er neglected;
He long had ſerv'd, the Lady knew
Her *Uncle* and her *Father* too,
And never was ſuſpected.

VI.

He us'd what Methods he thought fit,
The *Wolves* could not avoid 'em;
If that the Weather did permit,
He'd pitch his Toils, or dig a Pit,
'Twas thus that he deſtroy'd 'em.

VII.

For ev'ry Head a Crown was paid,
Which vex'd the new Steward *Robin*,
And *Abigal*, the Chamber-Maid,
With whom this *Robin* often play'd
The Game of *Hey Goo Dobbin*.

VIII.

'Twas then agreed between them two,
That *John* ſhou'd loſe his Place:
And thus their Malice to purſue,
They fram'd a Story moſt untrue,
And *JOHN* was in Diſgrace.

IX.

The *Wolves* did ſoon return again,
And all the Flocks ſurrounded:
The Shepherd did again complain,
And ſaid the fatteſt Lambs were ſlain,
And he himſelf was wounded.

X.

The Lady now perceiv'd tho' late,
That ſhe had been betray'd;
Bewail'd her own unhappy Fate,
In raiſing from a low Eſtate
The *Steward* and *Chamber-Maid*.

XI.

It was, it ſeems, their chief Deſign,
(As I have often heard it)
Their Lady for to undermine,
Which ſhe diſcover'd juſt in time,
ſo they were both diſcarded.

XII.

'Twas truſty *John* that privately
Their wicked Hopes defeated;
He always had a watchful Eye,
And ſent his Lady Word by th'By,
And ſo was Re-inſtated.

LONDON: Printed in the Year, MDCCXII.